

# Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

*Working as One to Serve Central Oregon*

Contacts: Mollie Chaudet (541) 416-6872

News and Information  
For Immediate Release  
February 6, 2003

Mike Williams (541) 416-6862

## Large Scale Planning Effort Continues

CENTRAL OREGON-The Prineville District BLM continues its collaborative planning process for the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (UDRMP), a large-scale plan that will shape the future management of public lands that stretch north to Lake Billy Chinook, south to La Pine, west to Sisters and east to Prineville Reservoir.

Over the past year, a series of meetings have been held to identify natural resource-based needs and concerns of the local communities and incorporate them into the planning process. "Our Issue Team meetings have helped us identify important issues, which have assisted us in developing creative alternatives for the plan," said Project Manager Mollie Chaudet.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4:00 at the Eagle Crest Resort in the Events Center. Team members will review draft alternatives and a preliminary analysis of the environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives. These reviews will continue the process for recommending a "preferred alternative" for the Bureau of Land Management's consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The issue team meetings are open to the general public, with a brief opportunity for public comment that may be submitted verbally or in written form. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release the summer of 2003. At that time, the public will have a 90-day period in which to formally comment on the draft plan.

"We know that a significant number of people living in this area care deeply about their public lands. The Prineville District BLM is working to ensure that people are not only aware of this large scale planning process, but that they understand this plan will shape future decisions made about public land uses in Central Oregon," said Prineville District Manager Barron Bail.

For more information on the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, visit our website at [http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes\\_RMP/Home.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm) or contact Mike Williams, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call (541) 416-6700.

-end-